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(Commission Secretary)

MORDEN

MANITOBA CLEAN ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION HEARING

RE: HOG PRODUCTION INDUSTRY REVIEW

MARCH 12, 2007 1:00 P.M. AT THE MORDEN FRIENDSHIP CENTRE

PRESENTED BY: HERM MARTENS, REEVE OF THE R.M. OF MORRIS

- **THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE CLEAN ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION HEARINGS REGARDING THE HOG PRODUCTION INDUSTRY REVIEW. AS REEVE OF THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF MORRIS, I WOULD LIKE TO EXPAND ON A FEW OF THE THINGS WE AS A MUNICIPALITY HAVE BEEN INVOLVED WITH REGARDING HOG PRODUCTION.**

THE R.M. OF MORRIS HAS TRIED VERY HARD TO REGULATE THE HOG INDUSTRY IN A RESPONSIBLE FASHION IN OUR MUNICIPALITY.

THE R.M. OF MORRIS ZONING BY-LAW INSISTS ON A ONE MILE SET BACK FROM THE RED RIVER AND THE MORRIS RIVER.

THE R.M. OF MORRIS ZONING BY-LAW ALSO INSISTS ON A TWO MILE SET BACK FROM ANY BUILT UP COMMUNITY.

THE R.M. OF MORRIS HAS INSISTED THAT ALL MANURE BE INCORPORATED WITHIN 24 HRS. OF SPREADING FOR ALL HOG OPERATIONS.

THE R.M. OF MORRIS BELIEVES THAT INCORPORATING THE MANURE WILL RESULT IN LESS RUN OFF AND LESS HARM TO THE WATER WAYS.

THE R.M. OF MORRIS HAS EXPERIENCED GREAT FRUSTRATION IN DEALING WITH THE PROVINCE OF MANITOBA.

MANITOBA AGRICULTURE HAS STATED PUBLICLY AT HEARINGS THAT THE 1 MILE BUFFER FROM WATER WAYS AND THE 2 MILE BUFFER FROM COMMUNITIES ARE TOO GREAT AND SHOULD BE REDUCED.

THE MANITOBA ENVIRONMENT FEELS THAT THE 1 MILE AND THE 2 MILE BUFFERS ARE NOT SUFFICIENT.

THE PROVINCE OF MANITOBA HAS NOW AMENDED THE PLANNING ACT, AND WILL NO LONGER ALLOW THE R.M. OF MORRIS TO REGULATE INCORPORATION OF MANURE.

THE PROVINCE OF MANITOBA UNDER THEIR REGULATIONS DOES NOT INSIST THAT THE MANURE BE INCORPORATED.

THE R.M. OF MORRIS IS VERY CONCERNED AND AWARE OF THE ENVIRONMENT.

THE R.M. OF MORRIS FINDS IT DIFFICULT TO REGULATE HOG OPERATIONS WHEN DIFFERENT PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS ARE PULLING THE COUNCIL IN DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS.

THE R.M. OF MORRIS BELIEVES THAT THEY HAVE BEEN VERY CONSCIENTIOUS AND THAT THE MORRIS GUIDELINES ARE CONSIDERABLY STRICTER THAN PROVINCIAL GUIDELINES.

THE R.M OF MORRIS ALSO INSISTS THAT ANY INTENSIVE LIVESTOCK OPERATIONS MUST PROVIDE A PERFORMANCE BOND TO ENSURE THAT THEY WILL COMPLY WITH ALL CONDITIONS IN THEIR CONDITIONAL USE.

ALL INTENSIVE LIVESTOCK OPERATIONS CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS ALSO REQUIRE THAT THERE BE AT LEAST 3 ROWS OF TREES, OF 2 DIFFERENT VARIETIES, AROUND EVERY SITE.

THE R.M.OF MORRIS BELIEVES THAT THE HOG INDUSTRY IS BENEFICIAL TO THE PROVINCE OF MANITOBA, BOTH THROUGH EMPLOYMENT AND OTHER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVANTAGES.

THESE ADVANTAGES WOULD INCLUDE MAJOR PAYMENTS TOWARDS SCHOOL TAXES AND MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURES.

COUNCIL OF THE R.M. OF MORRIS WOULD ALSO LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT UP UNTIL JUST RECENTLY THE PROVINCE OF MANITOBA HAS BEEN THE NUMBER ONE PROMOTER OF THE HOG INDUSTRY.

THIS CAUSES GREAT FRUSTRATION TO THE COUNCIL.

THE R.M.OF MORRIS IS AWARE OF NUMEROUS CASES WHERE WELLS HAVE BEEN CONTAMINATED, FROM HUMAN WASTE, AND SATURATION THROUGH SEPTIC FIELDS.

THE R.M. OF MORRIS IS NOT AWARE OF ANY HOG BARNs THAT HAVE CAUSED CONTAMINATION OF DRINKING WATER SUPPLIES.

THE R.M. OF MORRIS BELIEVES THAT HUMAN WASTE IS CAUSING A LOT MORE DAMAGE TO WATER WAYS THAN ANIMAL WASTE.

NOW I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE OFF MY REEVE HAT AND PUT ON MY HOG FARMER HAT.

I AM SADDENED THAT I HAVE TO COME HERE TO DEFEND THE MOST REGULATED INDUSTRY, THE MOST CLOSELY WATCHED, THE MOST MONITORED AND THE INDUSTRY THAT WENT "GREEN" MORE THAN ANY OTHER INDUSTRY IN CANADA.

I BELIEVE THIS WHOLE HEARING IS A CASE OF DECEPTION AND BULLYING. IF WE AS A PROVINCE TRULY WERE CONCERNED ABOUT WATER QUALITY, WE WOULD BE LOOKING AT THE WHOLE ISSUE INSTEAD OF PICKING ON THE 1%.

ACCORDING TO A GOVERNMENT RESEARCH PROJECT DONE OVER THE LAST 21 YEAR PERIOD ALONG THE RED RIVER, IT SHOWS THE PHOSPEROUS LEVELS SOUTH OF WINNIPEG DECLINED SLIGHTLY OR BASICALLY REMAINED CONSTANT. WHILE NORTH OF WINNIPEG THE PHOSPEROUS LEVEL HAS ALMOST DOUBLED. MY QUESTION IS, "IS THE HOG INDUSTRY WHAT WE SHOULD BE CONCENTRATING ON OR IS IT SOME WHERE ELSE?"

OF ALL THE HOG BARN LAGOONS IN MANITOBA, I DON'T KNOW OF ANY THAT HAVE PIPES DIRECTLY INTO THE RIVERS. BUT I KNOW THE CITY OF WINNIPEG HAS A NUMBER OF THEM. JUST TAKE A LOOK AT THE RED AND ASSINABOINE RIVERS ON A VERY COLD DAY AND COUNT THE MANY OPEN WATERS CLOSE TO THE SHORE. I DON'T BELIEVE THIS IS CAUSED BY THE WATER CURRENT OF THE RIVER BUT COULD IT BE AFFLUENT BEING DISCHARGED DIRECTLY INTO THE RIVER?

BEING INVOLVED IN THE HOG INDUSTRY, I HAVE PERSONALLY SPENT A LOT OF MONEY TO MAKE MY FARM "GREEN". IN 1973, THERE WERE 17 HOG BARN IN MY AREA. MY BARN WAS # 18. THIS IS WITHIN A 3 MILE RADIUS OF MY BARN. NOW THERE ARE ONLY 4. ALL 4 HAVE WELL OVER 400 DAY STORAGE AND ALL MANURE IS INCORPORATED INTO THE GROUND AS FERTILIER - ACCORDING TO TESTED NUTRIENT LEVELS AND ACCORDING TO WHAT THE CROP CAN UTILIZE. THE PHOSPEROUS IS NOT ALLOWED TO BE ERODED WITH THIS METHOD OF APPLICATION. FIRSTLY, IT IS A GOOD SOURCE OF FERTILIZER FOR CROP PRODUCTION AND SECONDLY, WE ARE GOOD STEWARDS OF THE ENVIRONMENT.

HOWEVER, MY CLOSEST NEIGHBOUR THAT DOES WINTER SPREADING IS A MERE 5 - 6 MILES TO THE NORTH OF MY FARM. THE SPREADING IS DONE UNEVENLY, SOME EVEN LEFT IN PILES, THUS ALLOWING THE RUNOFF TO DRAIN INTO THE WATER SYSTEM IN SPRING. IT ALSO CREATES AN AWFUL SMELL. THIS GOOD NEIGHBOUR OF MINE, DOING THE SPREADING IS NONE OTHER THAN THE CITY OF WINNIPEG EMPTYING THEIR SLUDGE FROM THEIR LAGOONS. THE HOG INDUSTRY GETS BLAMED FOR THE SMELL AND THE RUNOFF. HOW TOTALLY UNFAIR!!

AS YOU CAN HEAR FROM MY PRESENTATION AS A FARMER, I FIND THIS WHOLE EXERCISE EXTREMELY LUDICROUS AND AS A REEVE I FIND IT VERY FRUSTRATING.

THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS MY CONCERNS ABOUT THIS INJUSTICE AND THANK YOU FOR LISTENING.